

competition would lead to reduction in prices. However, inflationary pressures, high cost of R & D also have to be reckoned with.

#### **Militancy in Nagaland**

988. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports that part of the money collected from the Nagaland State Lotteries passes on to groups of Nagaland Militants from which they purchase arms and ammunition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Nagaland; and

(d) the steps taken to break the nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) :

(a) and (b) Government has seen newspaper reports to the effect that the sole distributor of Nagaland lotteries has made payments to militant groups.

(c) and (d) Government of Nagaland have been advised to stop the running of State Lotteries immediately till inquires into the allegations are over.

#### **Investment on Storage Capacity by FCI**

989. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken during the last one year to streamline and modernise the operations and network of FCI in the country; and

(b) the details of investment proposed on storage during the current year and the next three years for addition/expansion/modernisation of FCI particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) To streamline and modernise the storage operations, FCI has undertaken upgradation of existing Railway Sidings, including electrification. FCI is replacing old mechanical lorry weighbridges with the electronic weighbridges. FCI has also installed in-motion wagon weighbridges for purpose of rake weighment.

In order to modernise conventional storage systems, FCI is examining bin/vacuum technology system etc.

(b) For the current financial year, the budget allocation is Rs. 20 crores. In Maharashtra, FCI has planned a storage capacity of 15,000 MT at Sholapur involving an investment of about Rs. 1 crore.

[Translation]

#### **Grants for Handicapped Children School**

990. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of assistance being provided to the societies running schools for mentally retarded and physically handicapped children;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to provide hundred percent assistance to the societies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central Government extends financial assistance upto 40% of the total admissible grant to the NGOs/Societies following the favourable recommendation of the State Govts.

(b) to (d) No Sir, does not arise.

[English]

#### **Changes in Coca Cola Holdings**

991. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request for changes in Coca Cola South Asia Holdings (CCSAH) \$ 700 million proposal has been submitted to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA) without vetting by the Ministry of Food Processing;

(b) whether SIA has sent the proposal for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investment;

(c) if so, the reasons for bypassing the Ministry of Food Processing; and

(d) the normal guidelines for proposals affecting more than one Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) The request for changes in the approval granted to Coca Cola South Asia Holdings (CCSAH) for bringing US \$ 700 Million was submitted by the Company to SIA and SIA sent the proposal for consideration by CCFI.

(d) For proposals affecting more than one Ministry, the concerned Ministries are normally consulted.

[Translation]

#### Production of Potato

992. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been bumper crop of potato this year;

(b) if so, the total quantity of potato produced in the country. State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that potato growers are facing great difficulties in selling as well as storing their produce in their respective States;

(d) if so, the total quantity of potato spoiled due to this reason so far, State-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to provide assistance to the potato growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The estimated production of potato during this year is not available. However, State-wise latest data on Potato production for the year 1995-96 is enclosed as *Statement*.

(c) to (e) Some of the State Governments have reported distress sale of Potato in their State and requested for Market intervention for the purchase of potato. The data on quantity of potato spoiled during this season is not available.

The remedial steps taken by the Government to provide assistance to the potato growers are:—

(i) The Government of India have scrapped central cold storage order to facilitate setting up of more cold storages in the country, The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has removed ceiling on rentals and will revise tariff in

consultation with Agriculture Marketing Adviser to make it viable.

(ii) The Government of India is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme on the request of State Government to save the farmers from distress sale of Horticulture produce including Potato.

(iii) National Horticulture Board, National Cooperative Development Corporation & Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority are providing assistance for the construction of cold storages and other marketing infrastructure facilities.

#### Statement

State-wise Coverage of Area and Production of Potato during the year 1995-96

| S. No. | State             | Area<br>(thousand<br>hectares) | Production<br>(thousand<br>tonnes) |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3                              | 4                                  |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 1.4                            | 4.5                                |
| 2.     | Arunachal Pradesh | 4.9                            | 39.5                               |
| 3.     | Assam             | 74.1                           | 504.8                              |
| 4.     | Bihar             | 173.0                          | 1571.6                             |
| 5.     | Gujarat           | 23.0                           | 460.9                              |
| 6.     | Haryana           | 10.5                           | 141.3                              |
| 7.     | Himachal Pradesh  | 13.2                           | 120.9                              |
| 8.     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 2.4                            | 3.4                                |
| 9.     | Karnataka         | 25.5                           | 251.3                              |
| 10.    | Madhya Pradesh    | 44.3                           | 524.3                              |
| 11.    | Maharashtra       | 15.1                           | 75.7                               |